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# ♦The Lamoine Quarterly♦

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Volume 20 Issue 2

Published Quarterly by the Lamoine Town Office

October 2014

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## Progress Slow on Gravel Ordinance

(Lamoine) - Lamoine voters will NOT decide whether new rules for gravel mining should go into effect in November. The lack of an ordinance vote, though, does not mean town officials have not paid attention to what is perhaps the most burning issue in the community.

In June, the town's gravel work group finished up its review of the current gravel ordinance based on a number of issues identified by the many stakeholders in the gravel issue. Four major areas of the gravel ordinance were recommended for potential changes, including the application and permitting process, the restoration requirements, the water monitoring requirements, and setbacks from property lines. That report went to the Selectmen who have begun to draft a potential ordinance change.

The Planning Board has offered to help with drafting an updated ordinance.

The Selectmen are exploring potential changes that, among other things, would:

- ✚ Simplify the permitting process for gravel operation renewals;
- ✚ Restore the setbacks the previous ordinance, but with significant improvements in the amount of restored area;
- ✚ Clarify exactly how many wells are needed to water quality and quantity monitoring;
- ✚ Create real incentives, and in some cases, requirements to restore excavated areas to reduce the amount of open pit extractions.

There is no timetable to offer an amended ordinance to a town meeting vote. Public hearings will need to be held prior to any proposed amendments, especially if the matter goes to a referendum vote. Selectmen anticipate working on the matter throughout the fall and winter.

## Election Day is November 4

(Lamoine) - With the Maine Governor's race and a US Senate seat to be decided, turnout is expected to be quite heavy on Election Day statewide, and if early absentee ballot requests are any indication, Lamoine will be no exception. Both Town Clerk Jennifer Kovacs and Deputy Clerk Stu Marckoon attended the mandatory Secretary of State's Election Conference in September to get the latest information on conducting the balloting. The good news is—no big changes this years.

Lamoine will be utilizing the new voting machine that was first put into service during the 2012 presidential election. It's expected that the ballots will be counted by 9:30 PM on Election Night. That will be a relief to ballot clerks who were in the town office manually counting votes in 2010 Gubernatorial Election until 4:00 AM!

Absentee ballots will be cast on Election Day beginning at 8AM. The public is welcome to come watch the clerks run the ballots through the machine. The absentee results are included in the Election Day results as one report.

### Absentee Ballots Available

Voters who wish to avoid the line at the polls may obtain an absentee ballot up until October 30, 2014. There are many ways to accomplish this—the easiest is to come into the town office and vote via absentee ballot in person. An on-line ballot request is also available—a link was posted on the town's website when ballots arrived on October 6th. Beware, when you submit the absentee ballot, you cannot change your mind!

### Limited Activities at the Polls

If you support a particular candidate, that's great, but there are some things that can't take place at the polls. Campaign advertising is forbidden on public property within 250-feet of the polls by state law. And, there is limited room for poll watchers and petition signature seekers. The Selectmen and Clerk have adopted a policy on such activities inside the Town Hall.

## Town Clerk Jennifer Kovacs Re-Certified

(Lamoine) - The Maine Town and City Clerks' Association has granted a recertification certificate to long-time town clerk Jennifer Kovacs. The honor was earned by Jennifer's years of service and attendance at state and local training courses.

Jennifer started with the Town of Lamoine in September of 2003 and serves as both the Town Clerk and the Tax Collector. There are a LOT of job responsibilities with those positions. The clerk is responsible for processing, filing and providing all the vital records (Birth Certificates, Marriage Licenses, Death Certificates), arranging for all the elections, keeping the town record book up to date, keeping track of appointed officials, and processing dog licenses. As tax collector she also runs the front counter, collects property and excise taxes and processes motor vehicle registrations, as well as hunting and fishing license sales.

A Maine native, Jennifer grew up in Connecticut and now lives in Bar Harbor with her two daughters and fiancé.



## Lamoine, MDOT Agree On Traffic Light

(Trenton) - Selectmen have signed an agreement with the Maine Department of Transportation, promising to pay for the electricity, maintenance and insurance for a traffic control light that won't be located in Lamoine. The light will be constructed next spring at the intersection of State Routes 204 and 3 in Trenton (better known as the "Cheese House" intersection).

Normally, the host community would be responsible for those costs, but the Trenton Board of Selectmen wished to have nothing to do with it, noting that they never requested the traffic light, and it would not be of particular benefit to the citizens of Trenton. Several years ago,

responding to citizen requests, the Lamoine Selectmen wrote to the MDOT and suggested that a traffic light would be beneficial to the motoring public. During the summer months, it is nearly impossible to turn left from Jordan River Road onto Route 3 because of heavy traffic.

There have been numerous accidents at the intersection—including one within days of the Selectmen finalizing the agreement involving two motorcycle riders from Trenton who were badly injured.

MDOT officials say the lights will be installed in the Spring of 2015 as part of an intersection re-build project.

## Animal Control Officer Wanted

(Lamoine) - The Selectmen are conducting interviews for a new Animal Control Officer. The position opened when long-time ACO Michael Arsenault voluntarily submitted his resignation in September. Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon agreed to be the acting ACO until a permanent replacement is found. The new ACO is required to be certified by the state within 6-months of appointment.

## Community Arts Shows in November

By Diane Sanderson

(Lamoine) - Lamoine Community Arts will present "An Evening of Chekhov Comedies." We're busy in rehearsal now – with 4 directors, 17 actors, and many helpers preparing nine little plays. Two were written by the Russian playwright Anton Chekhov in the late 1800's: *The Bear* and *A Marriage Proposal*. The other seven were scripted by the American playwright Neil Simon in the late 1970's based on Chekhov's short stories. Some are outrageously funny, some subtly humorous. All are wonderful reflections on The Human Condition.

Shows at the Lamoine-Bayside Grange will be on Oct 31, Nov 1, 7, 8 at 7:00 PM or Nov 9 at 3:00 PM.



*Actor Jim Pendergist plants one on Andrea Gabel-Richards in rehearsal*

Homemade refreshments during intermission! Tickets: \$10. Call 667-6564 for reservations.

## Appeals Board Upholds Building

(Lamoine) - Lamoine's Board of Appeals turned down a Planning Board request to reconsider its actions allowing a maintenance garage to be built on land owned by Doug Gott & Sons. The project will displace about 70,000 cubic yards of gravel.

The Planning Board had denied the Site Plan Review Permit, basing the denial on not meeting review criteria for preserving and enhancing the landscape. There was some argument that the project was an end-around the gravel permitting process.



### ***Oops***

*No injuries reported when one of the picnic tables at Bloomfield Park on Blunts Pond collapsed. Apparently a tree limb fell from one of large pine trees next to the table and the screws gave out. Parks maintenance worker Bill Fennelly was able to reassemble the table, using larger screws—Good as New!*

The Appeals Board found the project would improve the property and by lowering the building's elevation, protect neighboring properties from the view and other impacts.

## Consent Agreement Reached

(Lamoine) - The Board of Selectmen and two large gravel pit operators have reached agreement on a compliance plan for water monitoring. The Board signed agreements with Harold MacQuinn, Inc. and John W. Goodwin Jr. which will require installation of the water quality monitoring wells by May 1, 2015 in accordance with the gravel ordinance in effect.

Both MacQuinn and Goodwin have approached the Planning Board with modified water quality testing plans. The Planning Board sought advice on whether such plans could be reviewed given the agreement reached between the pit operators and the Selectmen. Town Attorney Daniel Pileggi advised that the Planning Board could indeed act on the revised plans. Selectmen say the agreements will help bring the pits into compliance with the required testing plan.

## Liens Filed

(Lamoine) - Tax Collector Jennifer Kovacs filed 64 tax liens in July for \$53,542.41 in unpaid 2013/14 property taxes. That is two fewer liens than filed in 2013. The value of the 2012/13 liens was \$55,296.68.

Property owners have 18-months to pay the liens, fees and interest in full before the town automatically forecloses on the property. The 2012/13 liens will foreclose on January 12, 2015.

## Holidays Disrupt Selectmen Schedule

(Lamoine) - The Board of Selectmen opted to change their regular meeting dates a while back to the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month. The schedule seems to work fairly well, except for November and December of 2014. The 4th Thursday in November is Thanksgiving, and Christmas falls on the 4th Thursday in December.

At this point the Board has planned only one meeting for each month, though the board will sign an expenditure warrant

## Lorimer Road Neighbor Appeals RV, Driveway Ruling

(Lamoine) - A second entrance for a Lorimer Road property owner that allowed for easier access for a large recreational vehicle they own has prompted a filing with the Board of Appeals. Barry Balach and Paula MacIntyre stay in the RV periodically while renting the home they own during the summer months.

A complaint came in to Code Enforcement Office Michael Jordan that the RV was being used as a dwelling unit in violation of the Building and Land Use Ordinance. Jordan ruled that the RV was not occupied for more than a 30-day stretch and therefore did not require a building permit.

Neighboring property owner Tony Benincasa filed an appeal, claiming the CEO's ruling was incorrect and that the town erred in issuing a road entrance permit without a waiver. The Building and Land Use ordinance changed a few years ago requiring a waiver from the Planning Board for the 2nd entrance. The Board granted the waiver in August after the Road Commissioner had approved the entrance, which had been installed without a permit several months earlier.

A hearing is planned for November 5, 2014 at 6:30 PM at the town hall on the appeal.

The case has prompted a couple of issues that will need to be dealt with. One involves the Building and Land Use Ordinance and the 30-day occupancy of RV's. CEO Jordan has recommended that the Selectmen place a minor amendment before voters to clarify that the 30-days must be consecutive.

The other matter has to do with second entrances. A Buttermilk Road homeowner, ironically, had requested a 2nd entrance just after the waiver issue came to light and while the Planning Board granted a waiver, it was noted that the ordinance doesn't give any real criteria on what issue must be met to approve of one. The provision was contained in a set of amendments approved in 2009 and there had been no requests for second entrances received since that time, so the town had no experience with such a waiver.

## New Propane Furnace Heating Town Hall

(Lamoine) - The crisp fall weather is putting the new furnace at the Lamoine Town Hall through its paces, and, so far, so good. The new furnace was installed in late August by Osborne Plumbing and Heating of Bucksport, the winning bidder in the furnace project. It utilizes propane instead of #2 heating fuel.



*The old oil fired furnace (foreground) is removed from service and ready for dismantling. A smaller, much more efficient hot-air propane fired furnace has taken its place in the basement.*

The bid came in several thousand dollars less than the \$10,000 budgeted by Town Meeting. Perhaps the most difficult part of the installation was the removal of the old furnace and the heating fuel tank. Workers had to pump the oil out of the tank, and then cut the tank apart and carry it up the very narrow stairs in pieces to take it out of the dirt basement. During the process, some of the heating fuel dripped

into the basement, and the building smelled like fuel for several days. That has since dissipated.

Workers looking over the furnace and piping removed from the town hall noted that it was probably long overdue to be replaced. It's believed the old furnace was installed in 1988. The pipe connecting it to the chimney had rotted, and last winter the furnace failed several times.

## Transfer Station Change Implemented

(Lamoine) - New Transfer Station Manager Chris Meyer told the Board of Selectmen they might have made a mistake hiring a retired engineer to run things at the facility, but a lot of residents have high praise for how things are looking at the facility.

Meyer implemented placement of a barrier by the swap building to slow traffic down to keep folks using the building safer. There were also a lot of signs posted—the Board did ask him to cut back a bit on the signage.

One of the more controversial activities was a check for permit stickers for transfer station users. By rule, residents using the facility must have a sticker on their vehicle to bring household trash in for disposal. There is no charge for the sticker, but you must provide proof of residency to obtain one at the town

office. Meyer said he sent several users from other communities away for not having a sticker.

Meyer is also enforcing a “no loose trash” rule—requiring household waste to be in bags. This keeps trash from blowing all over the facility and helps prevent animals from getting into things. That effort angered a few folks, but has greatly cleaned up the litter around the transfer station.

The cardboard recycling container is also changed a bit—slots are narrower so folks have to break down the box to be as flat as possible. This will allow more cardboard to be placed into the container, and that will reduce the number of trips necessary to Coastal Recycling (\$250/trip).



(Lamoine) - When folks pay taxes by check in the near future, town staff will run those checks through the machine shown above, and it will be automatically captured and deposited to the town's checking account. Selectmen authorized acquisition of the machine in August, and the machine should go into service in October.

The town presently drives a deposit to the bank daily, and sometimes it is a squeeze to get in before the drive-up window closes. If there are lot of checks (August and February property tax payments generate a lot), it take the teller a fair amount of time to process the deposit. That ties up the line at the drive-up, and keeps town staff sitting in line longer than desired.

The plan is to scan the checks at the end of the day or the beginning of the next day. Cash deposits will still have to go to the bank, but those take far less time for the tellers to process.

The machine is provided to the town free of charge by The First, N.A. where the checking account is held.

## Veterans' Grave Care Contract Sought

(Lamoine) - The two largest cemeteries in Lamoine are both privately operated by cemetery associations. The town has asked both the Forest Hill and East Lamoine cemetery associations to meet to discuss new contracts for the care of Veterans' graves. Under a recently enacted state law, the municipality is responsible for such care, but the associations implement the required lawn mowing and other items for care. Non veteran graves are the responsibility of the associations.

For many years one association

billed the town for the graves, but one did not. Last year the other association billed the town \$2,800 which exceeded the budget. That prompted a request for agreements, and a draft contract was written, but has yet to be approved by either association.

The goal is to make sure the graves are properly maintained and that the town knows the correct amount to budget for that care, while the associations have some assurance they will be paid for the service. A meeting to hammer out the contract is set for October.

## Resignations Open Up Board Positions

(Lamoine) - This has been the late summer of change on some of the appointed boards and committees in Lamoine, as some folks who’ve served a long time have retired from service.

The Planning Board saw Jim Gallagher step down at the end of his term on July 1st. Alternate Perry Fowler has stepped into the full member position, and David Legere was appointed as an alternate member to replace Fowler. The other alternate member, Charles Weber, was unable to attend the last several months of meetings and voluntarily resigned that seat. Selectmen are considering a replacement appointment.

## Conservation Commission Bows Out of Grant

(Lamoine) - Resistance to public installation of test wells on private property, lack of state certification, and political issues have scuttled a grant application by Lamoine’s Conservation Commission. Grant funding might have been available through a settlement between the City of Ellsworth, the DEP and a defunct waste oil collection company.

The Conservation Commission spent months devising a grant application which was intended to gather water quality data along the aquifer the town shares with Ellsworth. The idea was to perform water quality tests and to continue testing to detect if any pollutants might impact the underground water supply.

Stephen Salsbury who represents many gravel pit owners indicated that the owners were willing to host test wells, but with conditions that the Conservation Commission found difficult to meet.

Selectmen questioned the ability of the town to conduct follow up testing without funding. With a mid-August deadline looming, the Conservation Commission informed Selectmen they had to give up on the idea.

## Friends Group Raises Questions

(Lamoine) - A group calling itself Friends of Lamoine asked numerous questions of the Board of Selectmen following approval of consent agreements with three gravel pit operators. The group includes at least two members of the Comprehensive Planning Committee and a website they’ve set up lists the mission as “advocating preservation and enhancement of our community and its resources through education and citizen involvement”. The website (<http://lamoine.org> seems very focused on gravel issues.

Selectmen issued a 4-page answer back to the organization explaining the rationale for signing the agreements with the pit owners.

On the Conservation Commission, original member Carol Korty has stepped down. Alternate Linda Penkalski was appointed to take her slot, and Larissa Thomas of Coley Cove Road will become the new alternate member.

The Parks Commission still has a vacancy following the expiration of Richard Brey’s term.

Kathleen DeFusco submitted her resignation from the Budget Committee which the Selectmen accepted with regret in September. Connie Bender will move from the alternate’s role to fill her term, and the Selectmen are currently seeking an alternate.

## Complaint Investigated

(Lamoine) - Code Enforcement Officer Michael Jordan and Health Officer Cece Ohmart are investigating a complaint received by the Board of Selectmen in September regarding an apparently abandoned home on Marlboro Beach Road. A report is due to the Selectmen in October. The complaint said the house is structurally unsound and is a fire hazard.

## Jordan Pit Renewal Proposed

(Lamoine) - One more gravel application for the Planning Board to get through this fall. RF Jordan and Sons occasionally extracts gravel from a parcel located between Walker Road and Mill Road which mostly surrounded by other gravel operations. A public hearing on the permit application was scheduled for October 7, 2014.

Planning Board members found most of the pits operated by Jordan, Harold MacQuinn, Inc. and John W. Goodwin Jr. to be in ordinance compliance with the submission of water monitoring plans. The approval removes the condition placed on those gravel operations during the winter and leaves just three pits awaiting final compliance.

Planning Board members have returned John Holt as the chair of the 7-member (two alternates) panel. Gordon Donaldson will continue as the Board’s Secretary while Don Bamman will serve as vice chair, running meetings when the Chairman might be absent. The leadership group remains unchanged from the previous year.

## Permits Issued

(Lamoine) - The following construction permits were issued by Code Enforcement Officer Michael Jordan during the previous quarter:

20	Miller, Ed	Residence
21	Rodriguez, L	Deck
22	Jamieson, A.	Roof over Trailer
23	Leavitt, James	Residence
24	Rodriguez, L.	Slab
25	Fennelly, J.	Mobile Home
26	Waugh, Jane	Deck
27	White, John	Porch
28	Khoury, Elie	Deck
29	Donaldson, G.	Addition
30	Evans, R.	Residence
31	Lambdin, J.	Garage
32	Manring, G.	Sign
33	Crawford, C.	Residence
34	St. of Maine	Staircase

## Planning Board Issues Permits

(Lamoine) - Three gravel permits received approval from Lamoine’s Planning Board during the summer. Doug Gott & Sons operate two of the pits located off Lamoine Beach Road. Michael Keene received approval for the pit he operates off Partridge Cove Road.

The pits received approval under the Gravel Ordinance most recently amended last March. The Planning Board reviewed the applications for water monitoring requirements, finding those proposed by the application met with the intent of the ordinance.

The Keene pit will be smaller than previously permitted—down to about 5 acres from the previous 11-acre operation. Selectmen approved a refund of part of the permit fee because of the reduced acreage.



### Expensive Blast

No one has owned up to firing a shot that damaged one of the panels on the kiosk at Bloomfield Park on Blunt’s Pond. Parks Commissioners found the shotgun pellet damage while cleaning up the park. The panels cost several hundred dollars each to produce. (We’ve circled the wounds)

## Website, E-Mail Problems Repaired

(Lamoine) - It's amazing how much technology is taken for granted—until it's not available. The town's website and e-mail have experienced some serious problems for several months beginning in later winter 2014. A hacker, likely from China, flooded the website server to the point that it overloaded the cable modem, forced shutdown of the website and e-mail. Days and days of reprogramming by our tech guru Brett Jones put a new server on line, and within days, it too was hacked and that shut things down.

The town has contracted with Time Warner to now host what is called DNS Service for the website. The site is still hosted on a town office server, but the DNS service provides insulation from

hackers. Time Warner is also hosting the e-mail service, and those moves seemed to have resolved the issues.

However, the server that hosted the website went down in September for about a week—apparently a power supply failed. The town has a brand new server, but Jones had to do the programming on that server to get it up and running, which was done in late September.

Meanwhile, the administration computer has been upgraded, which necessitated an upgrade in the software that creates the website. That came with a learning curve for town staff, but that seems to be working fairly well. The town's new technology committee has recommended buying a backup server.

## Fire Department Purchases New Camera

(Lamoine) - Donations from hundreds of folks and proceeds from the annual auction have raised enough money to purchase a new thermal imaging camera for the Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department. Shown at the right, the new camera is manufactured by Scott, and will be a vast improvement to the camera in 2001.

A thermal imaging camera sees the heat, and that's pretty important to firefighters. It allows them to detect where fire might be located behind walls, in ceilings or other places. It also picks up heat signatures from people, aiding with search and rescue when it's impossible to see through smoke.

Over the years, while the quality of the cameras has improved significantly, the price has fallen rapidly. The camera purchased 13-years ago cost \$17,500. The new camera came with a \$6,900 price tag. The old camera will be retired as it is no longer reliable and it's age makes it impossible to service.



## Fire Department Dinner Set for October 18

(Lamoine) - Save room for dessert on Saturday, October 18, 2014 as the Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department serves up its annual clam chowder dinner. Dining begins at the Lamoine Consolidated School Gym promptly at 5PM and will run until 7:00 PM. Fire department members will serve up the dinner, waiting on tables.

The menu this year will remain as clam chowder, baked beans, donated casseroles, yeast rolls, and pie/dessert. Cost for the dinner is \$7.00 for adults, and \$3.00 for children under 12.

Firefighters will sell tickets door to door beginning at around noon-time on Sunday, October 12, 2014. This might be the largest, ongoing community event in town—if you're new to the area, it's a great place to meet your neighbors.

## Fire Department Calls Numerous

(Lamoine) - Firefighters were busy over the summer with several structure fire calls. The largest was in Bar Harbor at the Portside Grill where numerous department, including Lamoine sent manpower and equipment to keep the flames from spreading to nearby buildings. Lamoine had 11-people on scene, 9 actively fighting the fire in and around the building.

Two fires in Lamoine caused very little damage. On Lamoine Beach Road, passing motorists Jason and Corey McMillan spotted smoke coming from a rented home on Asa's Lane. Firefighters arrived within 5-minutes but the young men had doused the flames with a garden hose. A cigarette discarded in a bucket on a back deck is believed responsible.

A Berry Cove Road home was reported on fire at 2:00 AM on July 21st. Again, firefighters were on scene on the very narrow road within minutes, but a neighbor had also extinguished that fire. The homeowner had several candles burning in a bathroom because a light fixture had failed. One of those candles ignited a towel nearby. In both cases mutual aid companies from Ellsworth, Trenton and Hancock were alerted, but canceled when Lamoine arrived on scene.

Perhaps the most serious in-town call, though, did not involve a fire, but a riding lawnmower that toppled down a shoreline bank on Deer Run, landing on top of its operator. When firefighters arrived less than 2-minutes after the call, they found fellow firefighter Bob Schust pinned under the mower deck, but conscious and alert. A ladder was lowered down the bank, the lawn tractor was stabilized by a larger tractor, and rescuers were able to tip the mower off Mr. Schust who scampered to safety. His injuries, miraculously, were minor.

## Tech Committee Holds Initial Meeting

(Lamoine) - Lamoine's newly appointed technology committee held its first meeting on September 24, 2014. Bill Butler was selected to chair the group which arose out of the informal Cable TV Committee. Merle Bragdon and Brett Jones were also appointed as members. The committee

discussed its role which has expanded to all sorts of technology surrounding the town. Jones, who is also the school board chair, suggested meeting with the school to talk about technological needs and telecasting opportunities from that buildings. The next meeting is Oct. 22nd.



*Contractor Richard McMullen grades a portion of Buttermilk Road to bring the shoulders up to meet the pavement edge and promote more even drainage on the roadway.*

## Emergency Light Recall

(Lamoine) - Fire Department Chief Engineer Moe Oliver reports that battery powered lights that come on when the power goes out may be the subject to a recall. Circuit boards in certain Acuity Brands lighting have reportedly overheated and caused fires.

The company has listed on the recalled model number on its website ([www.acuitybrands.com](http://www.acuitybrands.com)). If you have such a light, you are advised to remove the power to the unit, and take it out of service until the printed circuit board inside can be replaced. So far there have been no reports of fires in Lamoine from the emergency lighting units. The town office did have a similar light installed, but it was not among the recalled models.

## Comprehensive Planning Committee Gets Rolling

(Lamoine) - The committee charged with revising Lamoine's now 18-year old Comprehensive Plan has begun its meetings and is getting a good idea of the workload in front of them (it's a lot!). The Planning Committee members chose Fred Stocking as the chair, and Kathie Gaianquest as the Vice Chair. Bonnie Marckoon will serve as the committee secretary.

The Committee meet with Tom Martin, Executive Director of the Hancock County Planning Commission who has sent over numerous documents for the committee to consider as it gathers community facts and opinions on the plan. The Committee will meet next on November 20, 2014, discussing more about the planning process.

## Here's Yer Sign...

(Lamoine) - Expect to see new road signs on the town maintained roads over the next few weeks (more likely next spring). The Maine Department of Transportation will be providing dozens of new and replacement signs for the local roads after riding around the town and surveying what changes need to be made.

The good news is, the \$1,500 package of signs will cost the town only \$150-dollars thanks to a matching grant from MDOT. Code Enforcement Officer Michael Jordan attended the required class offered by the MDOT Local Roads Center which allows the town to obtain the signs at the significant discount.

The town staff will install the signs in accordance with Federal DOT Sign Standards (you should see the huge notebook of instructions!). In many cases, the new signs will replace worn existing signs and posts. The installations will also include a shorter post in the ground which will then attach to the taller post making sign installation much easier, not requiring a ladder.

## Conservation Commission News

*By Larry Libby*

(Lamoine) - Membership on the Commission is changing. Carol Korty has retired after a decade of service. Her energy and particularly her knowledge of Lamoine's history and natural resources will be sorely missed. In her very gracious letter to Commission members, Carol said "Serving on LCC for the past ten years has been one of the most satisfying aspects of living in Lamoine. Lamoine is extraordinarily fortunate, richly endowed by being physically posed in one of the most beautiful parts of America's coastline but also by its proximity to a wide variety of educational and scientific institutions focused on studying and conserving the area's natural resources." As Carol is leaving LCC, Linda Penkalski is moving from alternate to regular member and Larissa Thomas has joined as an alternate.

The Simon Woods Trail off Partridge Cove Road still awaits full implementation, with development of a 5 car parking lot and various trail improvements underway. Funding came from the Maine Recreational Trails Program.

After many weeks of effort, LCC decided not to move ahead with a proposal for state funding to establish a groundwater quality monitoring system along the town's sand and gravel aquifer. (see article page 4)

As always, Lamoine Conservation Commission meetings are open to the public. We hope you'll come with your ideas and suggestions, on the second Wednesday evening of every month at 7:00 at the town hall. The agenda and meeting minutes are on the town web site.

## Tax Rate Increased As Expected

(Lamoine) - Increased school and paving costs and decreased state revenue sharing combined for a 1-mill increase in Lamoine's tax rate set in July. The mill rate for the 2014/15 tax year is now 10.3 mills, up from 9.3 the previous two years.

The withdrawal from RSU 24 came with a large debt service bill payable to the RSU for its share of a school renovation project paid for during Lamoine's time as an RSU member. The cost to pave Needles Eye Road in 2015 is also significantly higher (because it's longer) than the paving costs in 2014.

The tax assessors committed nearly \$2.7 million dollars for tax collector Jennifer Kovacs to collect in mid-July with half due by the end of August, and half due at the end of February. As of the quarter's end, \$1.4 million had been collected. Interest is accumulating at 7-percent on the unpaid first half for those who've not paid.

The tax rate, depending on the budget approved, should decrease next year.

## Summer Projects Keep Town Busy

(Lamoine) - Several projects this summer have made improvements to buildings and roads in Lamoine.

Fire department members have nearly finished the repairs to the fire station after discovering wood above the apparatus bay doors had rotted. All that remains to be done is to install the letters on the front of the building.

The town's storage garage on Lamoine Beach Road sports a new coat of paint in a couple of sides. Parks maintenance worker Bill Fennelly has been doing that project. He will also paint the front door to the town office at some point this fall.

Town road projects include some significant ditching on Buttermilk Road, ditching and minor tree trimming on Shore Road, and resetting the culvert at Needles Eye Road and Pasture Way. The crew from Jay Fowler & Son will also tackle some projects this fall.

## New Flood Maps Available

(Lamoine) - The Federal Emergency Management Agency is close to finalizing the new flood maps for pretty much all of coastal Hancock County. The new maps showing revised zones in Lamoine are available for inspection at the Lamoine Town Hall.

Several communities have opted to contest some of the flood zone designations at significant expense. Lamoine has not—in fact, some of the flood designations assigned in 1981 have been relaxed. For instance, the current elevation in parts of Marlboro is 23 feet, meaning a building would have to be at least 24-feet above the high tide mark. The new proposed elevation is 14-feet. Folks who live along the water are encouraged to inspect the proposed maps which are also available on line.



*Ever wonder what it looks like underneath the road? A sink hole of sorts opened up on Jordan River Road during the summer. A resident kindly marked the hole (above left), so we stuck the town camera down inside, and the photo to the right shows the various layers of material (it was pretty deep). The Maine Department of Transportation temporarily filled the hole and will make a longer term repair in the not too distant future.*

## Late Breaking.... State Board Ramp Repair Planned

(Lamoine) - The town office has just received word from the State of Maine that a major renovation is planned at the boat launching ramp at Lamoine State Park. Engineering work is under way for a new concrete plank ramp, a handicapped accessible abutment and float system, guide piles and an expanded parking lot and maneuvering area. The state will seek the proper permitting and bid out the work during the winter and construction is expected to start next June.

Boaters have long advocated for ramp improvements at the park which also serves as the official town harbor. Town officials met with the Bureau of Parks and Lands last fall to get the ball rolling.

## Adopt A Highway Continues to Clean

(Lamoine) - The highway beautification efforts in Lamoine by volunteers continues to keep our town one of the more beautiful places in the world. Among the improvements this year was re-installation of the “Adopt A Highway” signs at the town lines. Some had “disappeared” (translation—swiped) from their posts. At the right, Adopt a Highway chair Georgia Munsell’s nephew Jason Bryant reinstalls the sign at the town line marker on Douglas Highway.



## Exercise Classes Now Twice A Week

(Lamoine) - Get Strong-Get Healthy Exercise Class is now meeting Monday and Wednesday mornings at the Lamoine Baptist Church.

The **FREE** 80 minute class begins at 8:15 a.m. Get Strong-Get Healthy builds

strength and improves balance. The routine may be adapted to any age or fitness level. Bring a yoga mat and hand/leg weights if desired. For more information contact Iris 667-5094 or Mary 667-7083

## Furnace Project Clears the Air

(Lamoine) - Part of the furnace replacement project bid out this summer including a measure that should cut down significantly on the amount of dust inside the town office. That was the cleaning of the air vents that the warm air blows through. To the best of our knowledge, the vents had never been cleaned, and town office staff feared what might be lurking in there. The cleaning company used a probe and camera to show

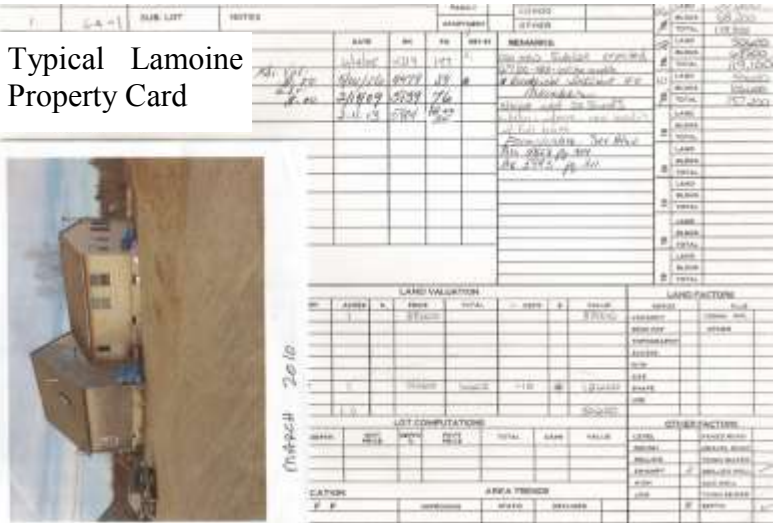


the inside of the vents, and thankfully there was no mold present, but plenty of dust, a couple of rings that hold the curtains on the voter booths, and even a quarter. Since the cleaning, the amount of dust accumulation has dropped sharply.

## Who’s That Taking Pictures?

(Lamoine) - If you see folks on your property with a digital camera in hand, it might be the property tax assessors. The Board of Assessors hopes to update all the pictures of most of the property cards on file this fall (weather and time permitting).

Pictures are attached to property cards (see below) and assist any number of folks that need property information. If you do have questions, don’t hesitate to contact the town hall at 667-2242.



## Returnables Program Hits New High

(Lamoine) - The program that assigns proceeds from donated returnable containers left at the Lamoine Transfer Station hit a record level this August—sending \$534.60 to the local Girl Scout Troop. That followed July’s total of \$441.65 to the sports programs at the Lamoine Consolidated School. The Selectmen are aware that there is a lot of strategy employed by groups looking to land the July and August proceeds, but are happy to see local organizations benefit from the town’s collective generosity. Beneficiaries for the coming months are:

- October—East Lamoine Cemetery Association
- November—Lamoine Historical Society
- December—Lamoine Baptist Church
- January—Lamoine Community Arts
- February—Lamoine/Bayside Grange.



## Little Children’s Committee Resumes Meetings

By Cynthia Donaldson

(Lamoine) - After a summer’s “vacation”, Lamoine’s Little Children has resumed its meetings, scheduled this year for the third Thursday of each month at the Lamoine Consolidated School from 4-5 PM.

For our September meeting, we were joined by Lamoine resident Connie Wallace, the director of the Maine Families home visiting program in Hancock County ([www.mainerfamilies.org](http://www.mainerfamilies.org)). She shared her program’s availability for families who are expecting or parenting new babies. We also focused on an effort to restart a play group in town. Many will remember the Lamoine Baptist Church as the setting for a playgroup, a nursery school, and a “mother’s morning out” group in years past. Once again the deacons and trustees of the church have generously offered their space and support.

The playgroup we envision will be for little children - from babies to preschoolers - and their parent(s) or care givers. Adults stay while children play in a group designed to last an hour and a half. The program will include free play as well as a story circle, a nutritional snack, and perhaps a creative activity for older children. The group’s startup date is not set as yet. Watch the town’s website for information and/or call Cynthia Donaldson (667-2382) for more information or to let us know you’re interested in the group. Our group will meet again on Thursday, October 16 and we welcome you to join us. If you cannot attend our meetings but would like to receive our meeting notes, please email Cynthia Donaldson at [cgdonaldson@myfairpoint.net](mailto:cgdonaldson@myfairpoint.net) and your email address will be added to our group list.

# October 2014-Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1-Appeals Board 6:30 PM	2-Comprehensive Planning 6:30 PM	3	4-Office Open 8-12
5	6	7-Planning Board 6:30 PM	8-Assessors 8:15 am Bat Talk—7:00 PM	9-Selectmen 7:00 PM	10	11
12	13-Columbus Day (Office closed)	14-6:30 PM School Committee	15-Shellfish Conser- vation 6:45 PM	16	17	18-Fire Dept. Supper 5PM @ School
19	20	21	22-6PM Technology Committee	23-7PM Selectmen & Budget Cmte.	24	25-Office open 8-12
26	27	28	29	30	31	

# November 2014-Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
The Budget Committee meeting schedule will be determined in October. Check the town's website for the schedule.						1—Office Open 8-12
2	3	4-Election Day 8am to 8pm	5-Assessors 8:15 AM Appeals Board 6:30 PM	6	7	8
9	10	11-Office closed (Veterans' Day)	12- Conservation Commission 7PM	13-7PM Selectmen	14	15
16	17	18-6:30 PM School Committee	19 –Shellfish Conser- vation 6:45 PM	20-6:30 PM Compre- hensive Planning	21	22
23	24	25	26	27-Office closed (Thanksgiving)	28	29-Office Open 8-12
30						

# December 2014-Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2-Planning Board 7PM	3-Assessors 8:15 AM	4-Comprehensive Planning 6:30PM	5	6-Office Open 8-12
7	8	9-6:30 PM School Committee	10-Conservation Commission 7PM	11-Selectmen 7PM	12	13
14	15	16	17—Shellfish Con- servation 6:45 PM	18	19	20
21	22	23	24—Office closing at Noon	25-Office closed (Christmas)	26	27-Office Open 8-12
28	29	30	31—Office closing at 2PM			

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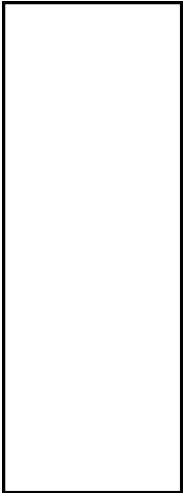
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Returnables Record

And Much, Much More!



Town of Lamoine  
606 Douglas Highway  
Lamoine, ME 04605